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Letter dated 19 May 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a press statement on the fifth meeting of the Permanent Consultative Framework of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, held on 18 May 2009 under the auspices of the Facilitator of the inter-Ivorian Direct Dialogue, Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Paul Robert **Tiendrébéogo**
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 19 May 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

Inter-Ivorian direct dialogue

Fifth meeting of the Permanent Consultative Framework

Ouagadougou, 18 May 2009

Press statement

1. At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, Facilitator of the direct inter-Ivorian dialogue, the fifth meeting of the Permanent Consultative Framework of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement was held in Ouagadougou on Monday, 18 May 2009.

2. In addition to the Facilitator, the meeting was attended by the following, all members of the Permanent Consultative Framework:

- His Excellency Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire;
- Mr. Guillaume Kigbafori Soro, Prime Minister;
- Mr. Henri Konan Bédié, President of PDCI-RDA (Partie Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire-Rassemblement Démocrate Africain);
- Mr. Alassane Dramane Ouattara, President of RDR (Rassemblement des Républicains).

3. In his introductory remarks, the Facilitator warmly welcomed the members of the Permanent Consultative Framework to that important meeting. He congratulated them on the significant progress achieved in the implementation of the different crisis recovery programmes, including the identification and voter registration operations. He welcomed the scheduling of the first round of the presidential election for 29 November 2009 and called for the conclusion of the voter registration operation by 30 June 2009. He thanked the international community for its financial and technical support which had helped to achieve significant progress in the peace process and to put the country's economic programmes back on track under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.

4. Following the adoption of the agenda, the Members of the Permanent Consultative Framework were briefed on developments in the electoral process and on the electoral timetable by Mr. Robert Beugré Mambe, Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI).

5. Mr. Mamadou Koné, Minister of Justice and Human Rights, reported on the status of the operation to reconstitute lost or destroyed civil registers scheduled to end on 20 May 2009.

6. The Prime Minister introduced a report on the evaluation of the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and the supplementary agreements thereto.

7. The members of the Framework welcomed the quality of the information provided by those presentations and discussed issues relating to the completion of the identification and voter registration operations, the implementation of the electoral timetable and of a security plan for the electoral process, as well as to the financing of the crisis recovery process.

8. The members of the Permanent Consultative Framework welcomed the satisfactory results achieved by the identification and voter registration operations which, as of 13 May 2009, had registered 6,048,114 persons. They called on the Government, CEI and the entities involved in those operations to take all appropriate steps to rapidly complete them, including by focusing on identifying and registering citizens who were living in areas that had not yet been covered or abroad.

9. Framework members recommended that the Government and the Independent Electoral Commission should ensure that all the applicants whose names were included in the reconstituted civil registers and who held court-issued copies of qualifying judgements or certificates of the relevant civil officer were duly registered.

10. Taking note of the detailed electoral timetable proposed by CEI to the Government, the Permanent Consultative Framework endorsed the Government's decision, on the proposal of CEI, to schedule the first round of the presidential election for 29 November 2009.

11. Taking into account the date fixed for the first round of the presidential election, the members of the Framework urged CEI and the entities involved in the electoral process to immediately proceed with outstanding preparations such as enacting electoral legislation; providing coordination centres with adequate equipment; data processing, including avoiding duplication and cross-checking with past records. Strict compliance with that timetable would enable the voter roll to be issued by September 2009.

12. The Framework encouraged the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Côte d'Ivoire to inform all the parties concerned about the contents and protocol of the five-criteria framework developed for the certification of the electoral process pursuant to his mandate under Security Council resolution 1765 (2007).

13. The members of the Framework were briefed on the status of the plan to deploy Integrated Command Centre joint police and gendarmerie units, which was launched on 5 May 2009 pursuant to the comprehensive plan on measures to ensure the security for the electoral process approved by the fourth meeting of the Framework held on 10 November 2008 in Ouagadougou. They commended all the parties on those encouraging results and urged the Government, the Defence and Security Forces, the Forces armées des Forces nouvelles (FAFN) and the impartial forces to support the comprehensive security plan and ensure that it was fully implemented under the authority of the Framework.

14. With regard to the re-establishment of the tax and customs administration throughout the country, the Permanent Consultative Framework welcomed the fact

that 20 May 2009 had been selected as the date for FAFN zone commanders to begin transferring authority to prefects. The Framework also welcomed the reinstatement of judges and other court officers following the rehabilitation of trial courts and the prison system in the centre, north and west region. It also hailed the ongoing efforts of the Ivorian parties with a view to the re-establishment of a single and fully effective State exchequer throughout the country.

15. The members of the Framework reminded all Ivorian political stakeholders of the importance of the Code of Good Conduct that Ivorian political party leaders signed on 24 April 2009 in the presence of the highest Ivorian authorities and the United Nations Secretary-General and called on the political parties to strictly abide by it.

16. In anticipation of the election campaign, the Permanent Consultative Framework invited the Government and the regulatory bodies, specifically the National Council for Broadcast Communication (CNCA) and the National Press Council (CNP) to strictly abide by the principle of equitable access by political parties to public media and of fair and balanced reporting.

17. The Framework noted with regret the continuing obstacles to the free movement of persons and goods as a result of the proliferation of road blocks and rampant extortion and called upon the Ivorian authorities to take firm action against such obstacles, which hindered the country's economic recovery and the free movement of persons and goods.

18. The Framework welcomed the gradual return of war-displaced persons and called on the Government and development partners to continue providing support for their return and resettlement in their home regions in order to further consolidate peace and national cohesion in Côte d'Ivoire.

19. With regard to the financing of the crisis resolution process, the Framework urged the Government to continue to provide CEI and the entities responsible for identification and voter registration operations with adequate financial resources for the timely completion of that crucial phase of the electoral process.

20. The Permanent Consultative Framework thanked the international community for its multifaceted support for the crisis recovery process. As a result of such support, Côte d'Ivoire became eligible in March 2009 for the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) and reached the decision point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. It commended the Ivorian Government on its efforts to pay off its domestic debt in order to pave the way for gradual economic recovery.

21. At the end of their meeting, the members of the Permanent Consultative Framework again expressed their gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, Facilitator of the direct inter-Ivorian dialogue, for all his ongoing efforts to find a successful resolution to the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

22. The Permanent Consultative Framework decided to hold its next meeting in September 2009.